

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed July 13, 2004.

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 8-12 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected. Claims 4 and 10-12 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 have been amended herein. Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in complete condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance thereof.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to for failure to depict the piston and sealing body recited in claim 9. FIG. 2 has been changed to include these features of the invention and the Specification has been amended accordingly. A marked up version of FIG. 2 and a corrective formal drawing are submitted herewith for the Examiner's review and approval. Applicant submits that these items are described elsewhere in the originally filed Application and, therefore, no new matter has been added by the change to FIG. 2 or the amendment to the Specification. Pending the Examiner's approval, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, with regard to the recitation of the piston and sealing body as separate elements. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of claim 9 and asserts that the piston and sealing

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 2 has been changed to include the piston and sealing body recited in claim 9.

Attachments: One Replacement Sheet Depicting Figs. 1 and 2
 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes to Fig. 2

body are properly recited. The Specification at page 8, line 10 through page 9, line 6 describes these elements but does not require the piston and sealing body to be part of a single moveable member, as alleged by the Examiner. Rather, the Specification states that "the piston and sealing body cooperate to adjust the width of the slot nozzle outlet." Accordingly, the piston and sealing body are properly recited as separate elements, as set forth in claim 9. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or (e) over one or more of PCT Application No. WO 00/02667 (Wagner et al.), U.S. Patent No. 6,053,978 to Bernert, U.S. Patent No. 5,456,869 to Miles et al., or U.S. Patent No. 5,424,018 to Paul et al. Claim 1 is the only independent claim of this rejected group and has been amended herein to include the subject matter of dependent claims 2 and 3. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the first and second slot nozzles include fluid passageways and that the first and second moveable seal members are positioned entirely outside of the first and second fluid passageways. Support for this amendment to claim 1 can be found in the Application, for example, at page 7, lines 15-19 and with reference to Figs. 2 and 3. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this amendment. Claim 9 has been amended so that the claim language corresponds to amended claim 1.

Applicant submits that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the rejections over the cited references. Specifically, none of the cited references teach or suggest moveable seal members positioned entirely outside of the fluid passageways that supply fluid to respective slot nozzle outlets. Rather, the slider 4 of Wagner et al., the deckle slides 16 of Bernert, the shim 20 of Miles et al., and the pivoting arm 10 and seal 11 of Paul et al. each extend into a fluid passageway associated with their respective nozzle outlets. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claim 1 over Wagner et al., Bernert, Miles et al. and Paul et al. be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 9 each depend from independent claim 1 and therefore are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above for claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wagner et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,846,599 to Innes et al. Claims 2, 3 have been canceled and claim 6 depends from independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 6 is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above for claim 1. Specifically, Wagner et al. does not teach or suggest a first moveable seal member positioned entirely outside of a fluid passageway communicating between a fluid source and an outlet of a slot nozzle. Innes et al. does not cure this deficiency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 6 over Wagner et al. in view of Innes et al. be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 10-12 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims, and were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter of these claims. Accordingly, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 4 be withdrawn.

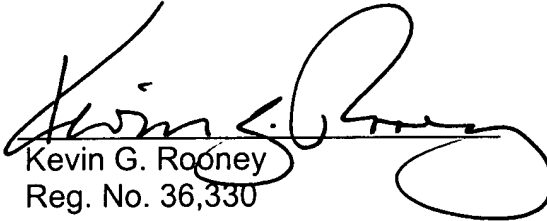
Claims 10-12 each depend from independent claim 4 and are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 10-12 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and remarks given herein, Applicant believes this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any detailed language of the claims requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicant is of the opinion that no additional fee is due as a result of this amendment. If any charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

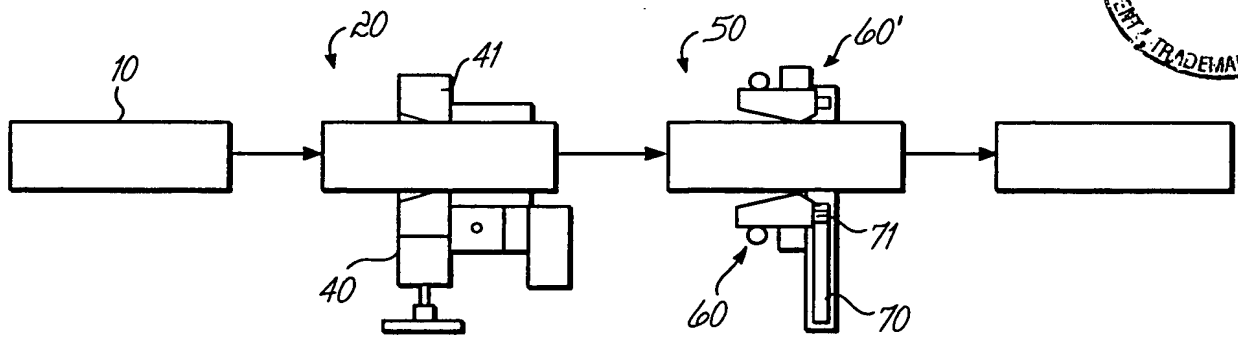
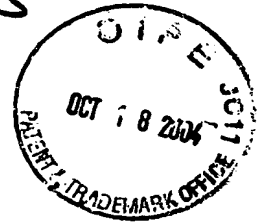


FIG. 1

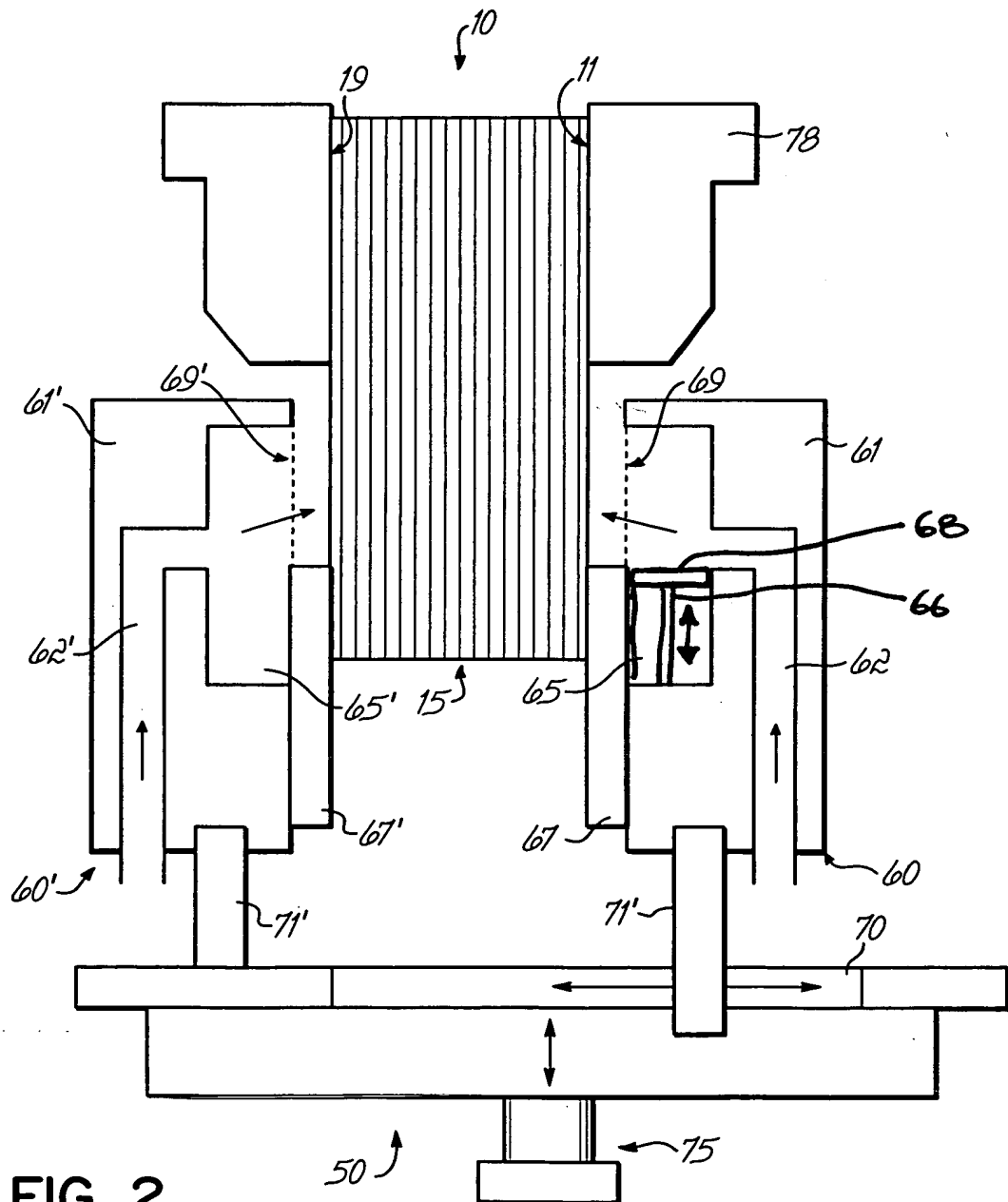


FIG. 2